Xbox Ambassadors 2021 End of Year Lists: Best New Designs

Community NerdyBirdy Dec 23, 2021

As we inch ever closer to the end of the year, we're turning our attention to the year's best releases for Xbox and PC. For this week's end of year lists, we're highlighting the best graphics and game designs of the year. From eagerly awaited AAA franchises to undiscovered independents, this list showcases the incredible graphical displays of the new Xbox Series X/S.

Each of the following selections feature incredible displays and cutting-edge visuals for some of the best gaming experiences of the year.

- **Forza Horizon 5**

We begin with one of Xbox's best games of 2021. *Forza Horizon 5* brings an open world format and environment to a rich heritage of racing gameplay and dynamics. Set in a fictional reimagining of Mexico, *Forza Horizon 5's* open world is a perfect device to showcase the Xbox Series X/S graphics with vibrant jungles, sparkling beaches and an incredible diversity of terrain and graphical wonders.

Image: Playground Games

- **FIFA 22**

The newest installment of FIFA not only built upon the previous version with a new Ultimate Team and VOLTA in-game mechanics, it also brought some of the best graphics on the Xbox platform. Using data collected from having 22 real players compete in a high-intensity match wearing motion capture suits, the EA Sports team went to work ensuring that gameplay accurately reflected the motions of player movement. The result is a seamless playing and visual experience.

Image: Electronic Arts

- **Pyschonauts 2**

With a unique art style and distinct visual design, *Psychonauts 2* brings the player into an alternate world in which psychic powers exist and are used to ensure peacekeeping and scientific research into the human mind. The game features a star-studded voice acting cast including Jack Black, Richard Horvitz and Nikki Rapp and was widely praised by critics for its audio-visual experience.

Image: Double Fine

- **EXO ONE**

Perhaps one of the most visually spectacular games in recent gaming history, *EXO ONE* is an exploration game where the player uses alien and extraterrestrial spaceships to explore incredible new worlds with their own unique physical features. From boiling cloud formations to intricate rock faces, *EXO ONE* is filled with a breathtaking display of the Xbox Series X/S's visual graphics capabilities.

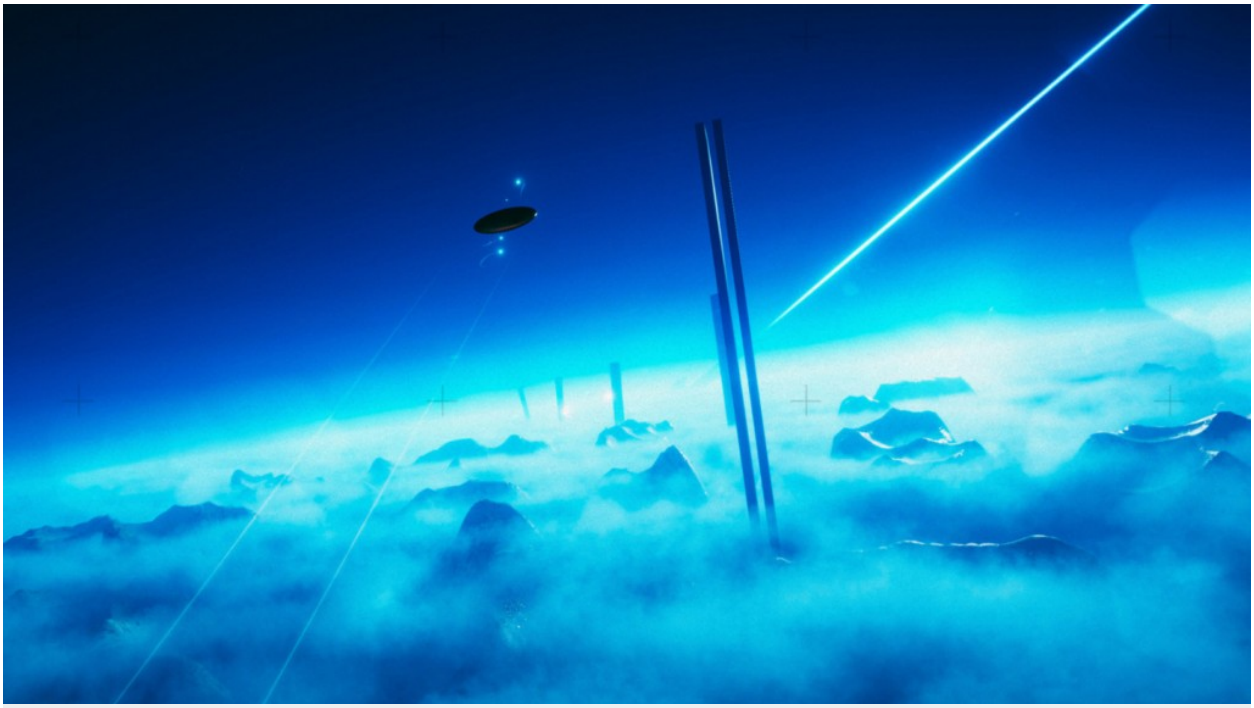

Image: Exbleative

- **Far Cry 6**

The sixth installment of *Far Cry* released in 2021 and brought to the franchise the full visual and graphical capabilities of the Xbox Series X/S. The developers spent over a month living in Cuba to develop ideas for the game’s development, and then used specialized motion-capture devices to ensure that the character’s actions felt as natural and realistic as possible.

Image: Ubisoft

- **The Gunk**

Few games capture the true visual capabilities of the Xbox Series X/S like *The Gunk*. Here you'll cross vibrant jungles, shimmering caves, and awe-inspiring canyons while you battle a corrupting black slime that's attacking your planet. The full scale of *The Gunk's* incredible graphics comes to play once you vacuum off the black gunk from the planet and watch its plant life spring back to life.

Image: Image & Form Games

- **Halo Infinite**

The sixth installment of the critically acclaimed Halo series, Halo Infinite spotlights the unbelievable visual capabilities of the Xbox Series X/S. As the latest edition of a flagship franchise, Halo Infinite not only impresses with its improved graphics, but also brings a new open-world design and stunning new single player campaign.

Image: 343 Industries

What were some of the best designed games you saw this year? Let us know in the comments below!